

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

Wilson, Larry David. 1990. *Tantilla semicincta*.

***Tantilla semicincta* (Duméril, Bibron and Duméril)**

Homalocranium semi-cinctum Duméril, Bibron, and Duméril, 1854:862. Type-locality, "Martinique," in error. Holotype, Museum d'Histoire Naturelle Paris 3695, an adult female, collector and date of collection unknown (examined by author).

Homalocranium laticeps Günther, 1860:240. Type-locality, "Carthage" (=Cartagena), Depto. Bolívar, Colombia. Holotype, British Museum (Natural History) 1946.1.8.85, an adult female, presented December, 1859, by probable collector, Capt. Garth (not examined by author).

Tantilla semicincta: Cope, 1861:74.

Homalocranium lineatum Fischer, 1883:6. Type-locality, "Maracaibo," Est. Zulia, Venezuela. Syntypes, Naturhistorisches Museum Hamburg 1033 (3 specimens), all destroyed during World War II fide Werner Ladiges.

Homalocranium semicinctum: Boulenger, 1896:219.

Tantilla semicinctum: Ruthven, 1922:68.

• **Content.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **Definition.** A species of *Tantilla* with one of two pattern types: (1) a banded pattern consisting of 12 to 26 black crossbands 5 to 12 scales in length extending laterally to a point ranging from the second scale row to the lateral edge of the ventrals on a pale ground color; (2) a striped pattern consisting of two broad stripes (4 dorsal scale rows wide) on a pale ground color. The venter is pale and unmarked. The head pattern consists of a dark head-cap beginning on the posterior portion of the prefrontals and extending to the middle to posterior third of the parietals. The snout is pale and a complete or medially divided pale nuchal collar is present. Ventrals and subcaudals range from 161 to 176 and 54 to 71, respectively.

• **Diagnosis.** *Tantilla semicincta* may be distinguished from all congeners by having a dorsal pattern of black crossbands 5-12 scales long or a pair of dorsolateral black stripes 4 scalerows wide on a pale ground color, a pale snout, black head cap, and pale nuchal band, 161-176 ventrals and 54-71 subcaudals.

• **Descriptions.** The most complete description is Wilson's (1976). Other descriptions are in Boulenger (1896) and Roze (1966).

• **Illustrations.** Wilson (1976) provided pen-and-ink draw-

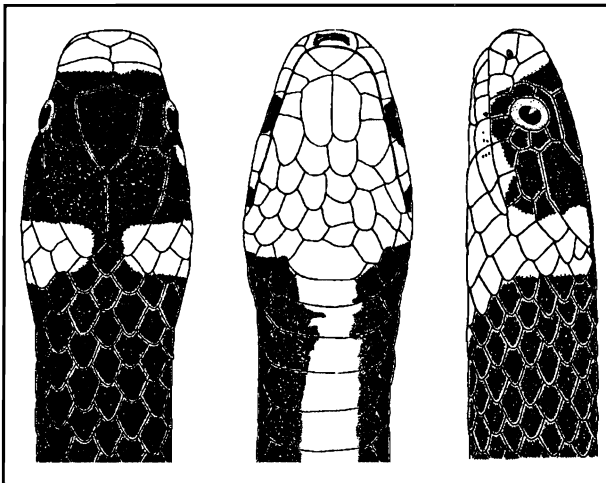
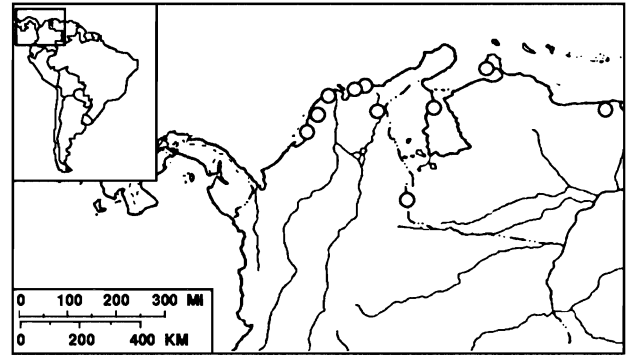


Figure. Head of *Tantilla semicincta* (from Wilson, 1976).



Map. Open circles represent locality records. The type-locality is too imprecise to plot.

ings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head, anterior body, the banded and striped dorsal body patterns.

• **Distribution.** *Tantilla semicincta* occurs at low elevations (near sea level) to 457m "along the Caribbean coast of Colombia and Venezuela from Cartagena to Caracas" (Wilson, 1976).

• **Fossil Record.** None.

• **Pertinent Literature.** The systematics of this species were reviewed by Wilson (1976). Wilson (1984) discussed additional material.

• **Etymology.** The name is derived from the Latin prefix *semi-* meaning "half" and *cinctura*, meaning "a girdle," in reference to the dark dorsal bands characteristic of this species.

Literature Cited

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